

ABSTRACT OF THE INVENTION

The present invention is generally directed to novel enantiomeric estrogen derivatives, some of which may have one or more unsaturated bonds in conjugation with the terminal or 5 A-ring of the structure, which have cytoprotective activity. The present invention is further directed to a process for conferring cytoprotection to a population of cells, of a subject in need thereof, involving the administration of an effective dose of the compound.